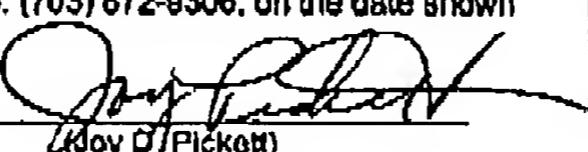


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (703) 672-9306, on the date shown below.

Dated: 7-29-04 Signature:   
(Joy Q. Pickett)

Docket No.: 22040-00018-US  
(PATENT)

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:  
Mamoru Kitamura

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Application No.: 10/628,261

Confirmation No.: 5425

JUL 29 2004

Filed: July 29, 2003

Art Unit: 2643

For: AUDIO REPRODUCING APPARATUS AND  
METHOD

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

### STATUS INQUIRY

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

It is respectfully requested that the attorney named below be advised of the status of the above-identified application. Please advise us of when we might expect to receive an Office Action from the Patent and Trademark Office.

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 22040-00018-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: July 29, 2004  
22683\_1

Respectfully submitted,

By Larry J. Hutz  
Larry J. Hutz

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JUL 30 2004

Initials: NB  
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